



July 2022 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more

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Patient Safety Fellows Identify Aspirational Solutions to Address Medical Errors

On July 27th, the 2022 Patient Safety Fellowship held its finale, concluding two months of learning focused on patient safety innovations and solutions across a multitude of lenses. The fellowship offered a deep dive into the history of the patient safety movement, tech-enabled quality improvement, human factors engineering in health care, the role of equity in patient safety, the promise of technology and big data to transform safety, insight into organizational culture and the effective ways to change the behavior at the frontline, and the need for a new central home for safety at the federal level.



The first-ever hybrid Feinstein Fellowship, the 2022 Patient Safety Fellowship, connected 29 fellows to distinguished speakers while challenging them to learn and engage with one another both in-person and virtually. The fellows represented 12 universities and 18 different disciplines, including medicine, informatics, nursing, engineering, administration, public health, and more, which enabled enriching dialogue about unique approaches to tackling patient safety issues.

“The Patient Safety Fellowship is an essential incubation time to learn, reflect and grow our understanding and application of patient safety in real time. The collective of diverse professionals united by a mutual interest to better the experience of care for both patient and providers alike brings about rich discussion, necessary challenge, and sustainable growth,” said Sophia Philip, master’s student in health care policy and management at Carnegie Mellon University. “It has been a fantastic learning experience to keep the momentum going for standardizing and unifying patient safety efforts.”

The content for this summer builds off the past two years of efforts from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative to make a swerve in national and regional approaches to medical error by redesigning methods to address patient safety. Fellows were able to tap into the expansive catalogue of materials stemming from our [National Patient Safety Board: Full Court Press](#) gatherings, previous Patient Safety Fellowships, and the [Up Next for Patient Safety](#) podcast series.



“I came into the fellowship with 10 years' practice in pharmacy and as a current health informatics student, and I still learned a lot of things that I have not seen elsewhere in my training and career,” said Daniel Yarabinec, PharmD, master's student in health informatics at the University of Pittsburgh. “The sessions covered a variety of topics and a bank of resources, contacts, and colleagues that anyone in healthcare leadership would envy. I have already implemented some practice changes on my own team and look forward to continued advocacy for the NPSB.”

During the finale, fellows identified aspirational solutions to improve patient safety including establishing a more interoperable national EHR infrastructure, payment reform to encourage transparency and reporting, and many naming the importance of establishing a National Patient Safety Board. They also reflected on their experience this summer and shared personal goals on how they can become better patient safety advocates.

Thank you to our partners and expert guests that made this fellowship possible: Martin Hatlie, JD, Tina Hahn, MSW, Tania Lyon, PhD, Ken Segel, MBA, Jonathan Gleason, MD, Raj Ratwani, PhD, Michael McShea, MBA, MS, Kimá Joy Taylor, MD, MPH, and Gerald Hickson, MD.

Up Next for Patient Safety Podcast Discusses The Great Resignation

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all facets of work and daily living, but its burden is deeply felt within our healthcare systems. Exhausted, under resourced, depressed, and frustrated, nurses, physicians, and other critical clinicians are resigning and retiring in record numbers. Research verifies the worsening of patient safety, as the declining healthcare workforce makes it even harder to provide safe care.

[In the latest episode](#) of the *Up Next for Patient Safety* podcast, host Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, physician leader Christine Sinsky, MD, president of professional satisfaction at the American Medical Association, and nursing leader Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, president of The John A. Hartford Foundation, unpack the “Other Pandemic”—healthcare worker resignations and burnout — and explore the challenges facing the healthcare workforce and the opportunities to address this emergency at a systems level.



Patient Safety Technology Challenge to Partner with Existing Competitions

The healthcare industry is ripe for innovation ideas, with some of the biggest corporations and trailblazers consistently trying to crack the overwhelming list of challenges within the industry. Patient safety technology solutions have never been more feasible and needed while also being often off-the-radar of innovators, and the new *Patient Safety Technology Challenge* is seeking to galvanize fresh approaches.



The *Patient Safety Technology Challenge* has shifted its approach and is preparing to launch this fall as a multifaceted national competition designed to increase awareness of the patient safety crisis and to engage innovators of a variety of backgrounds in creating solutions to reduce preventable deaths and disabilities from medical errors and harmful events. The Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative ([PRHI](#)), lead sponsor of the Challenge, will work with existing local and national innovation challenges, pitch competitions, and start-up weekends to offer awards focused on specific patient safety problems. Guided by national partnership organizations experienced in safety technology and advanced healthcare analytics, PRHI will help other competitions frame the problems, judge submissions, and work toward amplifying the new ideas.

The Challenge is focused on seeking out and establishing partnerships with existing national competitions as well as regional competitions in key metro areas including Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington DC.

As part of the Challenge and to further increase the visibility of patient safety and technology-enabled solutions, PRHI will create a documentary to assess the current state of patient safety and provide a vision for a better future. Material for the documentary will come from the Challenge winners' big ideas and pitches. The documentary will highlight the solutions and interview the students about their reasons for participating and their design process. To further demonstrate the potential of autonomous, technology-enabled solutions to prevent errors, the documentary will also capture existing pockets of innovation across the country.

The current partners for the Patient Safety Technology Challenge are AcademyHealth; Auton Lab at Carnegie Mellon University; Center for Lean Engagement & Research at the University of California, Berkeley; Center for Military Medicine Research (CMMR) at the University of Pittsburgh; Center for Patient Safety Research and Practice at Brigham and Women's Hospital; HealthySimulation.com; Innovation Works; Institute for Healthcare Improvement; The Leapfrog Group; MedStar Health National Center for Human Factors in Healthcare; National Quality Forum; Partnership to Advance Responsible Technology; Patient Safety Movement Foundation; and Pittsburgh Center for Artificial Intelligence Innovation in Medical Imaging.

Dementia Friends PA Contract Renewed through 2023

[Dementia Friends Pennsylvania](#) is pleased to announce a renewed grant from the [Pennsylvania Department of Aging](#) to improve and expand access to ongoing programs, which raise awareness about dementia and decrease stigma surrounding dementia.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation, which serves as the state administrator for the Dementia Friends Pennsylvania program, has received funding of \$105,000 from the PA Department of Aging, a \$20,000 increase from the previous year's funding allocation.



A Dementia Friends session at Jewish Family and Community Services on April 23, 2019.

With the leadership and expertise of JHF Program Managers of Aging Initiatives Stacie Bonenberger, MOT, OTR/L; and Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA, Dementia Friends Pennsylvania will continue to provide Information Sessions and Champion Trainings to community members.

The funding will allow Dementia Friends Pennsylvania to continue its efforts to empower communities in Pennsylvania to become informed, safe, and respectful of individuals with dementia, their families, and care partners through the end of June 2023. The funding will also be used to engage the youth sector and create guides for underserved communities.

JHF's Full Court Press for Senior Residential Living Achieves Success in Advocating for Pennsylvania's Nursing Homes

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation's (JHF's) Senior Residential Living Full Court Press Team has succeeded in influencing Pennsylvania's budget dedicated to long-term care. In July, the Pennsylvania Legislature and Governor Tom Wolf agreed to infuse funding to hire and train more staff at the Commonwealth's nursing facilities.

The agreement represents \$515 million new dollars that will be distributed to nursing homes and long-term care facilities, including a roughly 20% increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates, the first substantial increase in nearly a decade.



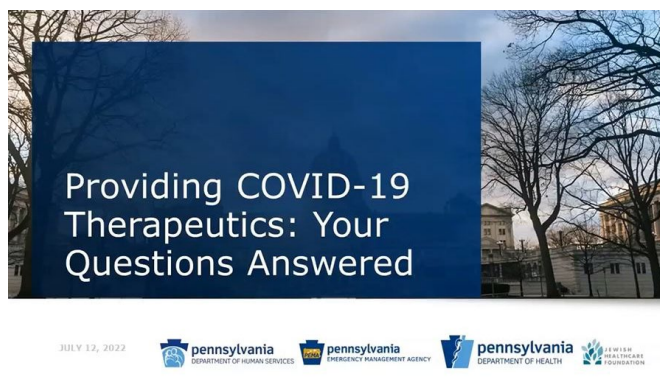
During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, which ravaged the nursing home industry in Pennsylvania and across the country, JHF formed the Full Court Press for Senior Residential Living to advance policy and practical solutions. JHF also funded the creation and dissemination of the acclaimed documentary [What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care](#) and a study from Leading Age UMASS, [What Is Happening to Pennsylvania's Nursing Homes?](#), which highlighted the financial struggle and challenges faced by Pennsylvania's nursing homes. Using those items, JHF joined with advocates and our partners in the PA Health Funders Collaborative to advance proposals for additional funding and change in the Commonwealth.

The Full Court Press was intended to be a temporary vehicle to gather and share best practice strategies. While JHF will be sunsetting the Full Court Press team, we will continue to work to advance positive models for Senior Residential Living, using our existing bodies to do so, including the Health Careers Futures Board.

JHF Delivers Webinar on COVID-19 Therapeutics to Statewide Audience

Outpatient COVID-19 treatment and preventive therapies can improve patient outcomes and save lives. Oral antivirals and monoclonal antibodies for pre-exposure prophylaxis are now widely available in Pennsylvania, but the Commonwealth identified need to improve awareness, access, and equity in their use, particularly in long-term care settings.

To address this knowledge deficit, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation was approached and agreed to coordinate and host a webinar on July 12, 2022, entitled "Providing COVID-19 Therapeutics: Your Questions, Answered." This webinar was delivered on behalf of Pennsylvania's Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Emergency Management Agency to more than 130 staff from long-term care facilities. This webinar focused on why, when, and how to prescribe and access outpatient COVID-19 treatment and preventive therapies to promote better outcomes for those most vulnerable to serious illness from COVID-19. The webinar recording and materials were further distributed to the hundreds of long-term care facilities across Pennsylvania.



Nancy Zions, COO and Chief Program Officer at Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and David Kelley, MD, chief medical officer for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' Office of Medical Assistance Programs, delivered opening remarks. Deborah Milito, RPh, PharmD, BCGP, director of vaccines and therapeutics at Diamond Pharmacy, provided an overview of available COVID-19 therapeutics. Dan Haimowitz, MD, FACP, CMD, medical director at Living Branches and Arden Courts Yardley, discussed preparing facilities to educate, communicate about, and administer therapeutics. Steve Alles, MD, MS, MFA, public health physician and member of the COVID-19 Long Term Care Taskforce with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, presented on outbreak and pandemic preparedness in congregate care facilities. Andy Pickett, director of the Bureau of

Emergency Preparedness and Response, discussed access to COVID-19 therapeutics and opportunities for long-term care stakeholders to support efforts to provide therapeutics to their residents. Zionts further led the Q&A session for participants, who had the opportunity to pose questions to the expert speakers at the end of the webinar.

Film Screening Sparks and Continues Conversation about Teen Mental Health

Fifty percent of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75 percent by age 24, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. At a screening of [*Hiding in Plain Sight: Youth Mental Illness*](#), a Ken Burns documentary about the mental health crisis among American youth, local mental health experts in Pittsburgh shared that the epidemic of teen mental health was only heightened by the isolation, racial injustice, and societal disassociation that occurred during the pandemic.



Youth, community members, advocates, and service providers discussed the challenges youth people in the region face in receiving services for mental health issues.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation co-sponsored the screening with WQED, Allegheny Family Network, and The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern PA on July 7, followed by a panel discussion including Michelle Thomas, director of Training and Program Development for The Mentoring Partnership of SWPA; Shelby Williams, Upstreet Pittsburgh therapist; Twanda Clark Edgal, chief program officer of Gwen's Girls; Sara Nevels, intake department coordinator of Gwen's Girls; Christa Jones, supervisor at Allegheny Family Network; Kathy McQuillan, therapist at PERSAD Center; Laurie Barnett Levine, experienced social worker and CEO of Mental Health America of Southwestern PA; and Abby Rickin-Marks, youth mental health advocate, moderated by Sarah Pesi, Policy Associate at JHF.

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) reported](#) emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts among persons age 12 to 25 across the United States increased 31% in the proportion of mental health-related emergency department visits that occurred among adolescents aged 12-17 years in 2020. In June 2020, 25% of surveyed adults aged 18-24 years reported experiencing suicidal ideation related to the pandemic in the past 30 days.

According to [CDC statistics](#) from 2015, Allegheny County had 9.6 psychiatrists and 28.8 psychologists per 10,000 children age 0-17 years. Aside from the lack of providers, the panel expressed that there is also a lack of racial diversity in available providers and those who accept Medical Assistance.

In the film, youth candidly discussed the emotional rollercoaster of depression, the stigma surrounding mental health diagnoses, and impact of mental health on their everyday life, from early

childhood into early adulthood. The panel echoed the film's message and relayed that the issue of mental health is equally concerning in Allegheny County.

The conversation about teen mental health will continue in different spaces in the coming months. This community discussion was important to activate community members to begin addressing the teen mental health crisis with a larger push toward providing care and prevention in the community. An action conversation and debrief will be held at a later date.

Heroes with Jim Roddey Features Interview with Karen Feinstein

On his local weekly radio show *Heroes*, Jim Roddey, the former (and first) chief executive of Allegheny County and former Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Board member, interviews influential and inspiring leaders from the region. At the end of June, he interviewed JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD to discuss the early days of the Foundation, how it became what it is today, and her invaluable role in leading it. Dr. Feinstein discusses the key to the success of JHF and some of the themes that have guided its work over the past three decades. [Listen to the interview here.](#)



AIDS Free Pittsburgh Organizes Fast-Track Cities Implementation Workshop

Community, civic, and public health stakeholders gathered in-person and virtually to discuss the current state of HIV in Pittsburgh and generate a dialogue for Pittsburgh's next steps in addressing barriers, gaps, and health inequities. The event on July 21 was held to begin to create strategic objectives and action steps for implementing and realizing HIV care continuum optimization to reach the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals in Pittsburgh by 2030.

Pittsburgh is the only city in Pennsylvania to [join](#) a global network committed to ending the HIV epidemic by 2030. Through the [Fast-Track City \(FTC\) initiative](#), the City of Pittsburgh has pledged to work towards zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths, and zero stigma against people living with HIV. This renewed local commitment to support people living with HIV and other key populations impacted by the epidemic comes just over 40 years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention first reported on what would become known as HIV in June of 1981.



The implementation workshop was held in collaboration with the FTC Institute, AIDS Free Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh HIV Commission, and the Mayor's Office of Community Health and Safety.

Topics discussed included an overview of the international Fast-Track City initiative and the role of data dashboards in accountability towards jurisdictional HIV goals; local HIV coordinating groups discussed their work to date and roles of stakeholders in aligning to the FTC model; and group discussions about maintaining momentum and participation while also addressing inequities.

Participants expressed interest in: developing dedicated capacity for HIV advocacy at the city-level, state-level, and beyond; addressing increased HIV cases because of COVID-19; addressing related emerging infectious disease challenges like monkeypox; examining the intersection between access to HIV prevention and care and abortion and contraception access.

The International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) is currently working to develop an HIV data dashboard for Allegheny County in collaboration with the Allegheny County Health Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Additionally, Pittsburgh will be represented at the IAPAC Fast Track Conference in Sevilla, Spain in October.

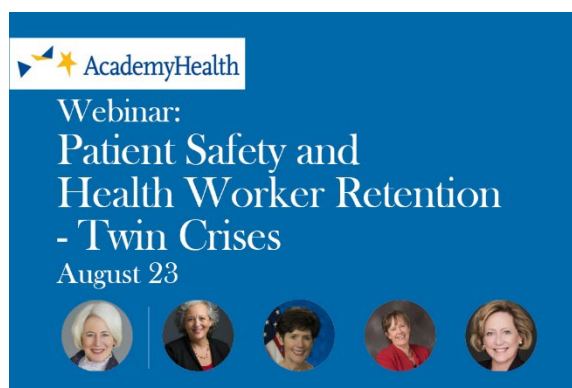
Introducing the New Death & Dying Series for Healthcare Professionals

The new Death & Dying series takes on a key challenge: the reality that professionals are not well prepared to deal with or talk about death, dying, and grieving families. This education series, modeled after the popular Death and Dying Fellowship for graduate students, provides healthcare professionals with an opportunity to learn, confront, and discuss the legal, medical, social, cultural, familial, and spiritual aspects of death and dying within a multidisciplinary group in a low-pressure environment. Gain the skills you need to have meaningful end-of-life conversations with your patients and their families. [Apply here](#) by August 22.



Register for *Patient Safety and Health Worker Retention: Twin Crises* on Aug. 23

Our nation faces an urgent need to address both highly prevalent patient safety events and the increasing numbers of healthcare professionals leaving the workforce. These two persistent and challenging problems preceded the pandemic but have worsened during the past two years; and they are not unrelated. With fewer and less experienced peers, frontline workers cannot maintain the same safety standards. They fear they will do harm, risk moral injury, and question their own ongoing participation in a system that is failing them and their patients.



Recent reports in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#), [the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#), and forthcoming from the Office of the Inspector General have demonstrated the urgency to address patient safety. No healthcare system, hospital or nursing facility has escaped health care's Great Resignation. Solutions to the twin crises are inseparable.

[Register here](#) for the upcoming webinar, *Patient Safety and Health Worker Retention: Twin Crises*, hosted by AcademyHealth on August 23 from 1:00 – 2:00pm EDT featuring a timely discussion among some of our nation's pioneer leaders and early innovators in healthcare safety research and policy during their years together at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, MACP, chief executive officer of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies; Carolyn Clancy, MD, assistant under secretary for Health for Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks at the Veterans Health Administration; Nancy Foster, vice president for Quality and Patient Safety Policy at American Hospital Association; Lisa Simpson, MB, BCh, MPH, FAAP, president and chief executive officer of AcademyHealth; and moderated by Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, president and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative. This webinar will explore the reasons underlying our unfinished agenda on patient safety and consider what real progress we can make in this unique moment.

Salk Health Activist Fellowship Will Return in September Focused on State Advocacy

Do you want to work with other passionate healthcare professionals to develop winning strategies to advocate for the health of our communities? Join this fall's 2022 Salk Health Activist Fellowship, an incubator for emerging health activists seeking to build an advocacy skillset that can be used to advance policy change, particularly focused at the state level, as legislation on critical health issues continues to trend toward state governance. Learn important insights on how to grab the public's attention on a major health and social issue and inspire action. [Apply by August 31](#).



JHF Donates Benches Honoring Past Board Members to Hartwood Acres Sculpture Garden

The Sculpture Garden at Hartwood Acres, the Pittsburgh region's biggest public sculpture garden, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 10.

[The yearslong Allegheny County](#) project involved refurbishing and relocating sculptures around the park grounds surrounding Hartwood Acres mansion to provide a centralized experience for parkgoers.

Among the 14 sculptures in the centrally located sculpture garden are two benches donated by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation in honor of Patricia Siger, who served as JHF Board Chair from 2009-2011, and friend of the Foundation, James I. Mitnick, former Allegheny County Parks Foundation Board Chair from 2013-2019.



Patient Safety Advocate and PRHI Collaborator Michael Millenson Brings Fresh Approaches to Address Medical Error

Insistent patient safety advocate and President of Health Quality Advisors, LLC, Michael L. Millenson, has been a friend of the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) since its first meeting at Alcoa in 1997. Millenson began his career as a journalist focusing on healthcare issues before winning a fellowship that set him up to focus his work on quality of care. Since then, he's gone on to perform research at Northwestern University, [publish an acclaimed book](#), and consult across the country with his work focused on improving quality and safety and the healthcare delivery system.

Throughout all this time, Millenson has remained an important voice and collaborator with PRHI, consistently emphasizing opportunities to address medical error. In April, the Patient Safety Network published a [conversation](#) with Millenson in which he highlighted a strong need for patient safety related journalism, with skilled reporting that not only includes a data-driven approach to appeal to professionals, but a human interest element to evoke public reaction and inspire change. Media coverage is crucial for any action. "Absent that media spotlight, the same facts would have led to the same inaction that had continued for decades," he said.



Millenson also published in May an [article](#) pushing for “radical transparency” from hospitals. In the article, Millenson and J. Matthew Allen detail a visual rating system for three Baltimore area

hospitals based on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs which clearly shows safety standards, if patients are listened to at the facility, and the patient’s quality-of-life post-care.

Sally Zubairu-Cofield: Reinvigorating & Reimagining the Pennsylvania WIC Program

Sally Zubairu-Cofield was 19, pregnant and scared when she walked into a WIC Program office in southern Prince George’s County, Maryland. Confronted with poor customer service and the stigma of teen pregnancy, she left that day embarrassed and without the resources she needed as a teen mother-to-be.

She didn’t know it then, but that experience would set her on a path, determined to reinvigorate and reimagine the process and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program itself, a nutritional lifeline for more than 100,000 Pennsylvanians.



As a young mother, Zubairu-Cofield worked in a salon shampooing clients on weekends while she went to nursing school. She graduated on a Saturday and started to work at the largest WIC agency in Maryland the next week, rising through its ranks during years of service before finally accepting a position as Pennsylvania State WIC Program director this March.

“The way I was treated at WIC made a difference in my entire being. I made it my mission that no one would ever feel like that again. I walked through these doors determined to immediately make a difference. I saw people who looked like me, and I knew that is where I needed to be and where I was supposed to be,” Zubairu-Cofield said.

The WIC Program provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, healthcare referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnancy, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum birthing people and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be a nutritional risk.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal) published a research paper in 2019: Reinvigorating and Reimagining The Pennsylvania WIC Program, which found that only 50 percent of eligible Pennsylvanians receive assistance through WIC. The paper also identified states with high WIC participation rates and explored possible reasons for their success. Some of those included: Increasing the ease of enrollment and accessibility to the program with walk-in, weekend and evening hours; the option to complete some of the required nutrition education online; making WIC clinics more inviting; and strengthening relationships with other service providers.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the challenges that the WIC program faces as a short-term intervention program for a targeted, high-risk population. As clients received an influx of pandemic assistance, WIC participation decreased dramatically.

As WIC Program director, Zubairu-Cofield's goals for Pennsylvania mirror many of those found in the white paper, including increasing participation in the program, in turn increasing its funding allocation by: Increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of the providers at the clinic; renegotiate contracts to increase the number of vendors and accessibility; increase collaboration with other service providers; examine policies and procedures to streamline processes and increase the program's impact; and hold statewide staff training to ensure cohesion in the understanding and delivery of services across the state.

"My goal is for there to be no wrong door. My dream for Pennsylvania is that no matter what office you walk into, if you qualify for this program, you're getting the information you need right then and there. My dream is that someone can come in for a WIC appointment and leave with resources for how to stretch their food dollars, how to use their WIC and Food Stamp benefits collectively, how to access resources for energy assistance, how to get access to resources if you have children on the spectrum, resources for women and men in abusive relationships, for homelessness," Zaibaru-Cofield said.

JHF and WHAMglobal manage the PA WIC Stakeholders Collaborative, which aims to strengthen communication, coordination, and collaboration among WIC Program stakeholders and to provide a platform for sharing ideas and collectively working to improve the PA WIC Program. Zaibaru-Cofield recently joined JHF at its WHAM board meeting to share her experience and discuss future collaboration to continue to improve the WIC Program.



Update on Teen Drop-In Center

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) funded teen drop-in center located on Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill next to Friendship Circle is currently under construction. Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and CEO, and Nancy Zions, MBA, COO and Chief Program Officer at JHF visited the site at the end of July to check on the progress. JHF looks forward to this needed new resource becoming available to the community soon.